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Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Summary

The present report is the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It contains information on the six grave violations against children and more broadly on the situation of children affected by the armed conflict in the country from January 2010 to December 2013.

The report is focused on trends in violations in the conflict-affected areas of North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga and Orientale Province. It shows that all parties to the conflict have been responsible for grave violations against children. Access to some of those areas has remained limited owing to security and logistical constraints.

While the recruitment and use of children have continued, progress has been made with regard to the national security forces, notably in October 2012 with the signing by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations of an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by government armed forces.

The report also shows the continuing trend of killing and maiming, sexual violence and of attacks on schools and hospitals, and provides a series of recommendations to tackle the remaining challenges and improve the protection of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions, is the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It contains information on the major developments relating to the situation of children and armed conflict in the country since the previous report (S/2010/369) and covers the period from January 2010 to December 2013, unless otherwise specified. The information contained herein has been gathered, verified and compiled by the country task force on monitoring and reporting within the framework of resolution 1612 (2005) and is also drawn from other reports of the United Nations.

II. Political and military developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

2. The reporting period witnessed major political and security developments, including the holding of the presidential elections in 2011, in which Joseph Kabila Kabange was re-elected as President; the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) rebellion, which led to the fall of Goma in November 2012; the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region[1] in February 2013, which includes commitments by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours to addressing the root causes of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region with the support of the international community; the holding of the National Dialogue in October 2013; and the signing of the Nairobi Declaration in December 2013, which marked the end of the M23 rebellion.

3. The presence and activities of armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo remained a major source of insecurity and violence against children, however, notwithstanding the military pressure, including a series of military offensives against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), the regional operations against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the numerous joint operations conducted by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo — FARDC) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

4. While the strengthened political and military mandate of MONUSCO served as a deterrent, several dozen armed groups remained active, such as Mayi-Mayi groups Nyatura, Raia Mutomboki and Cheka in North Kivu and South Kivu, Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga in Katanga, the Forces de résistance patriotiques en Ituri (FRPI), Mayi-Mayi Simba in Orientale Province, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Beni territory and FDLR. Those groups relied heavily on recruitment and use of children, many of whom were rerecruited multiple times, while the continuing clashes among armed groups, and between some of those groups and the national security forces, resulted in many children being killed or wounded.

[1] Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and, later, Kenya are signatories to the Framework.

5. In addition to the activities of armed groups, the absence of State authority in conflict-affected areas and weak accountability and command and control of the national security forces contributed to an environment in which children were victims of grave violations and at a high risk of violence and abuse. Furthermore, the lack of a formal security sector reform framework resulted in the integration into the national security forces of numerous perpetrators of grave violations against children. However, the fast-track integration, which began in 2009, and the subsequent numerous ad hoc efforts to integrate armed groups constituted significant opportunities for child protection actors to separate children associated with armed actors.

6. In 2011, FARDC was listed for sexual violence against children in annex I to my report on children and armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution 1882 (2009) and previous resolutions (see A/65/820-S/2011/250), in addition to being listed for recruitment and use since 2003.[2] The signing in October 2012 of the action plan to end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against them notwithstanding, FARDC has committed grave violations, whether perpetrated in the context of military operations or by ill-disciplined elements.

A. North Kivu and South Kivu

7. The Kivus remained the epicentre of violence during the reporting period. Owing to various military escalations, the two provinces accounted for more than half of the internally displaced persons in the country, ranging from 1.5 million in August 2010 to 1 million in October 2011 and 1.7 million in August 2013.

8. The accelerated integration into the national army of 12,000 elements from the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP), the Coalition des patriotes résistants congolais (PARECO) and Mayi-Mayi groups notwithstanding, former CNDP elements maintained a parallel chain of command within FARDC, mostly under the leadership of Jean-Bosco Ntaganda. During that time, FARDC units, including elements from the former CNDP and other armed groups, committed egregious human rights violations. In September and October 2010, former CNDP elements were responsible for a wave of child recruitment in North Kivu. This was part of the group's strategy to mobilize in response to growing discontent over the implementation of the agreement of March 2009, the confirmation of their rank within FARDC and plans for their relocation outside the Kivus.

9. Following the progress made through operation Amani Leo, launched early in 2010 to neutralize FDLR and consolidate the gains of operation Kimia II, in January 2011 the FARDC leadership began to withdraw units from remote areas in the Kivus and restructure them into regiments. Those troop movements created security voids and resulted in a further deterioration of the security situation in the two provinces. Taking advantage of the positions vacated by FARDC, FDLR and Mayi-Mayi groups expanded their area of control and took revenge against the local population. That in turn led to the mobilization of local self-defence militias such as Raia Mutomboki in Shabunda, Kalehe, Walikale and Masisi territories. Those militias recruited many children and launched offensives against FDLR, deliberately targeting their civilian dependants, mostly women and children.

[2] At the time referred to as the Forces armées congolaises (A/58/546-S/2003/1053).

10. In April 2012, former CNDP and PARECO commanders began defecting in North Kivu and South Kivu and soon after announced the creation of M23 under the command of Colonel Emmanuel Sultani Makenga. As FARDC adjusted its posture to tackle the new insurgency, security vacuums were created, leading to a remobilization of other armed groups, some in support of the Government and others in support of the rebellion. Attacks against civilians increased and the humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly, with more than 1 million people displaced in North Kivu between April 2012 and November 2013.

11. Children were gravely affected by the developments. All armed groups intensified their recruitment and the overall insecurity and the grave humanitarian crisis resulted in high numbers of grave violations being recorded. Furthermore, reports of widespread human rights violations, including mass rape and sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children, committed by M23 and other armed groups and, to a lesser extent, by FARDC, increased during the temporary occupation of Goma by M23 in November 2012.

12. Early in December 2012, fighting erupted between two M23 factions (pro-Ntaganda and pro-Makenga, respectively), notwithstanding the M23 withdrawal from Goma and the beginning of the peace talks under the auspices of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Children who escaped from M23 during and after the clashes reported that dozens of children associated with the groups were killed during the fighting. Following their defeat, Jean-Bosco Ntaganda and his elements fled to Rwanda, where he turned himself in to the Embassy of the United States of America in Kigali and was transferred to the International Criminal Court on 23 March 2013.

13. In November 2013, FARDC, supported by MONUSCO, inflicted a military defeat on M23. On 12 December 2013, in Nairobi, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 signed a declaration officially disbanding M23. The national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan approved on 26 December 2013 estimated that 3,663 children would be separated from armed groups.

B. Orientale Province

14. During the reporting period, Orientale Province was affected by a deteriorating humanitarian crisis, with 300,000 internally displaced persons recorded in March 2010 and 550,000 recorded in December 2013. LRA remained extremely active in 2010 and 2011, in particular in Dungu, Niangara and Bangadi, engaging in looting and abducting civilians, including children. Between August 2011 and December 2013, LRA activities progressively decreased as a result of military pressure by the African Union Regional Task Force, which led to a significant decrease in the number of grave violations against children.

15. Among other groups active in Orientale Province, Mayi-Mayi Simba, led by Paul Sadala (alias Morgan) intensified its activities at the end of 2012 and throughout 2013, attacking gold mines and committing serious human rights violations against civilians, leaving behind a trail of killing, abduction, rape and forced displacement. The group was responsible for the recruitment of children and for the rape of several girls in at least two separate incidents in 2013. A new leader

of Mayi-Mayi Simba was appointed following the death of Paul Sadala in April 2014 during clashes with FARDC.

C. Katanga

16. The situation in north Katanga remained relatively calm throughout 2010 and 2011, but continuing attacks against, and harassment of, the local population by both FARDC and Mayi-Mayi groups in 2012 and 2013 led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons in the northern and central part of the province. On 31 December 2012, Katanga was hosting more than 316,000 internally displaced persons, a sharp increase from the 55,500 recorded early in 2012. As at December 2013, the number of those registered as internally displaced had further increased to 402,000.

17. The United Nations received reports that 400 young people had joined the Jeunes katangais Mayi-Mayi group in June 2012. The leader of Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga, Gédéon Kyungu Mutanga, was convicted in 2009 of crimes against humanity, but he escaped from prison in Lubumbashi in September 2011. In 2013, Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga intensified its attacks on villages and clashed with FARDC in a struggle to assert control over mining sites. The group has been responsible for grave violations against children, including the killing, abduction, rape and mass recruitment of children.

III. Grave violations against children: incidents and trends

18. The overall situation of children affected by the armed conflict remained dire. Grave violations against children continued unabated during the reporting period, with children directly or indirectly affected by the protracted conflict in multiple ways. They were forcibly recruited or abducted by armed groups. They joined voluntarily to defend their communities or to obtain protection and support, often after having lost their families. Boys and girls were raped while associated with armed forces and groups. Mass displacement resulting from continuing hostilities severely hindered children's access to education and made them more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease.

19. Grave violations against children were committed by all parties to the conflict. Rerecruitment of children remained a trend linked to the recurrent instability and cyclical mobilization of armed groups. Recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and sexual violence against children peaked in 2012 and numbers remained high throughout 2013. This can be largely explained by the hostilities relating to the M23 insurgency.

20. Children were separated from armed forces and groups in various ways, including in the context of ad hoc integration exercises and age verification processes, such as the biometric census of FARDC supported by the European Union Advisory and Assistance Mission for Security Reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A. Recruitment and use of children

21. Recruitment and use of children remained endemic during the reporting period, with 4,194 cases (3,773 boys and 421 girls) documented by the United Nations.[3] Although most of the children recruited were Congolese, foreign children were also identified: 110 stated that they were Rwandan, 13 Ugandan, 3 South Sudanese and 2 from the Central African Republic. At the time of writing, the United Nations was working with the Governments in the region regarding the verification of the status of a group of 96 unaccompanied children who fled to Uganda at the same time as M23 elements in November 2013.

22. Approximately one third of the documented cases involved children under 15 years of age. Children declared that they had been used as combatants, escorts, cooks, porters, guards and sex slaves. Some children formerly associated with M23 and FRPI described how they had had to transport and bury the bodies of adults and children who had died on the battlefield. Of the 421 girls whose recruitment was documented, 32 per cent reported having been raped and sexually abused.

23. In 2010, a total of 1,108 new cases of recruitment were documented (1,030 boys and 78 girls), which represented a significant decrease over the previous year (2,280 cases). That trend continued in 2011, with 767 cases documented (680 boys and 87 girls). An increase was again reported in 2012 and 2013, however, with 1,296 cases (1,167 boys and 129 girls) and 1,023 cases (896 boys and 127 girls), respectively.

24. While those trends are not reflective of the actual scale of violations, owing to the varying monitoring and reporting capacity in the country, the increase observed in the second part of the reporting period can be explained by the creation or reorganization of armed groups, such as M23 and Mayi-Mayi groups Kata Katanga, Raia Mutomboki and Nyatura. At the same time, a decrease in recruitment was observed among FARDC, FDLR, FRPI and LRA.

25. Most child recruitment cases were attributed to Mayi-Mayi groups[4] (974 cases), followed by FDLR[5] (594 cases). Mayi-Mayi Nyatura recruited 390 children, Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga 388 children, LRA 255, FRPI 231, Mayi-Mayi Raia Mutomboki 147, PARECO 191, M23 168 and the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain 124.

26. Of the verified cases of child recruitment, 76 per cent took place in North Kivu (2,127) and South Kivu (825), compared with 92 per cent during the previous reporting period, in part resulting from the greater monitoring and logistical capacity in North Kivu. In most cases, children were abducted and forced to join the groups. Others joined voluntarily, having been promised money, education, employment or other benefits.

[3] For the same period, partners of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported providing services to 16,560 children associated with armed groups and forces, which strongly suggests that recruitment of children remains underreported.

[4] These include Mayi-Mayi Kifuafua, Kirikicho, Burondo, Complet, Cheka, Kasindien, Yakutumba, Lafontaine, Mushondo, Parem, Safari, Shetani, Simba and Tawimbi.

[5] Including FDLR-FOCA (FDLR-Forces combattantes Abacunguzi), Rally for Unity and Democracy and FDLR-Soki.

27. In Orientale Province, 584 cases of child recruitment (163 girls and 421 boys) were documented, representing 13 per cent of the total caseload. In Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé, most cases were attributed to LRA, which was responsible for 91 cases of child recruitment in 2010, 122 in 2011, 35 in 2012 and 3 in 2013. It is important to note that cases of recruitment by LRA are often documented months, and sometimes years, after recruitment. FRPI was responsible for recruiting at least 231 children (217 boys and 14 girls). Although a decrease was documented towards the end of the reporting period, the group continued to create insecurity and reliable reports indicated that it was continuing to recruit children.

28. While only four cases were reported in Katanga throughout 2010 and 2011, in 2012 the United Nations documented 296 cases, in addition to 94 cases in 2013. Virtually all those cases (388, of which 94 were girls and 294 were boys), were attributed to Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga alone, representing 98 per cent of the total number of cases documented in the province. That group has systematically recruited children in the central and northern part of the province. For example, following the attack on 23 March 2013 by Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga on Lubumbashi, 42 boys were separated from the armed group. Some of the boys reported that many girls were associated with the group but remained behind with the adult women for their security and were not taking part in the fighting. The children were reportedly used as fetish keepers and obliged to undertake cleansing rituals for combatants. In August and September 2013, a large group of Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga elements surrendered, following awareness campaigns by the Government, the United Nations and civil society. Consequently, 48 children were separated from the group.

29. FARDC was responsible for 293 cases of recruitment and use of children. In 2010, the FARDC integrated brigades (mainly ex-CNDP and PARECO) accounted for the second highest number of children. Although more than 1,462 children formerly associated with armed groups were separated before the 2009 fast-track integration, many more were hidden and subsequently "integrated" into FARDC. The country task force has continued actively to seek the separation of those children from the military authorities of the newly integrated brigades.

30. From September 2012 to mid-2013, FARDC conducted a recruitment campaign, during which several hundred children were erroneously enrolled, but released at the initiative of FARDC in collaboration with the United Nations. The vast majority were recruited owing to a lack of effective age verification procedures, the use of falsified identification cards and the weak birth registration system.

B. Detention of children for association with armed groups

31. Detention of children for association with armed groups remained a grave concern. At least 274 children were detained by FARDC in violation of Congolese law for taking part in an insurrectional movement or for association with armed groups. Twenty-four children, who had been illegally detained by FARDC in Equateur Province from April to July 2010 because of their association with the Enyele insurgency, were released following advocacy by the United Nations. Furthermore, 22 presumed children, including 8 girls, were detained at Bunia prison for their association with the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain and Mayi-Mayi Simba in 2013. Of those 22, 8 were declared adults by the

Prosecutor of Bunia and 2 were convicted, while the remaining 14 were handed over to the United Nations for reintegration and family reunification.

32. Notwithstanding the adoption of directives by the Minister of Defence and the National Security Agency, the latter specifically prohibiting the detention of children for association with armed groups, 93 children were arrested by FARDC from March to November 2013 during clashes in Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale Province. While 83 children were released, 10 remained in detention after being declared adults by an FARDC medical officer in December 2013. Among the 93 children, 20 claiming to be Rwandan and 30 claiming to be Congolese formerly associated with M23 were arrested in North Kivu and South Kivu and transferred to the military intelligence headquarters and to the National Security Agency in Kinshasa. Some of the children subsequently reported poor detention conditions and ill-treatment during interrogations. Many of them had been transferred from the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to Kinshasa by FARDC.

C. Killing and maiming of children

33. In total, 239 children were maimed (86 girls and 153 boys) and 206 were killed (77 girls and 129 boys) as a direct result of the conflict during the reporting period. Beginning in mid-2012, a considerable increase in the number of children killed and maimed was observed. While the average number of cases of killing and maiming documented between 2008 and 2012 was 41 per year, in 2012 the number of cases quadrupled to 187 (88 killed and 99 maimed). In 2013, 164 incidents were reported (68 killed and 96 maimed). The increase can be explained by an improvement in monitoring and reporting capacity, in addition to the M23 insurgency. Of those casualties, 81 per cent were attributed to armed groups, mainly FDLR, Raia Mutomboki, M23 and LRA, while FARDC was responsible for 19 per cent of children killed and maimed. Most were killed or maimed as a result of collateral damage and crossfire. For example, on 23 July 2013, seven children were killed during the bombardment of M23 positions by FARDC in Rumangabo (North Kivu). Overall, North Kivu alone accounted for 53 per cent of child casualties.

34. The United Nations documented violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the fighting between FARDC and M23, including during the final phase of the military offensive in November 2013. For example, at least 15 civilians, including 2 girls and 4 boys between 2 and 16 years of age, were killed and at least 37 were wounded as a result of mortars launched from M23 positions into populated areas of Rutshuru territory on 4 November 2013. During the occupation of Goma and Sake by M23 in November 2012, at least 2 children were killed by shrapnel and more than 10 were maimed by bullets.

35. In February 2013, Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga, armed with machetes, bows, arrows and guns, attacked the village of Kabwela (Moba territory). At least seven children between 4 and 15 years of age were killed and four maimed. Two 4-year-old girls were burned alive, having been locked in a hut that was set on fire. A 15-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl were shot dead and a 10-year-old boy was killed by an arrow.

36. In December 2013, ADF elements attacked a village in the Rwenzori sector, killing at least 11 children, including 3 girls between 2 months and 17 years of age,

and maiming a 14-year-old girl. The victims were killed with machetes, mutilated and thrown into a ravine in Beni territory.

37. During the reporting period, it was documented that 46 children (11 girls and 35 boys) had either been killed (20 cases) or maimed (26 cases) by grenades and other explosive devices. Of those incidents, 18 occurred in North Kivu, mainly in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories.

D. Rape and sexual violence

38. Rape and sexual violence against children remained a grave concern throughout the reporting period. All parties to the conflict were responsible for such crimes, which were perpetrated mainly in the context of attacks on the civilian populations by both armed groups and national security forces. Mass rape was used as a weapon of war in the conflict in the eastern part of the country to intimidate communities, including in the context of the struggle for control of land and resources. The presence of military actors within the community and the lack of barracks for national security forces, however, resulted in large numbers of incidents of rape perpetrated by ill-disciplined armed actors.

39. Monitoring and reporting remained challenging during the reporting period, owing to a number of factors, including victims' fear of reprisal, social stigmatization, the lack of safe and confidential assistance for victims and weak access to justice, or the absence of State authority, in significant areas of the eastern part of the country. Furthermore, difficulty in identifying perpetrators and in distinguishing between gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence in areas affected by chronic instability also contributed to the difficulties of monitoring the situation. The United Nations monitoring and reporting arrangement on sexual violence in conflict has been established in the country and was being strengthened as at the end of 2013.

40. The United Nations documented 905 cases of sexual violence in conflict committed against children between 2010 and 2013, mostly in Ituri district, Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé and North Kivu and South Kivu. FARDC was responsible for more than one third of the total number of documented cases, while elements of the Congolese National Police were responsible for 54 cases, 2 of which occurred at police detention facilities.

41. In an incident of mass rape in Minova and surrounding villages in Kalehe territory (South Kivu) between 20 and 22 November 2012, at least 102 women, including 33 girls, were allegedly victims of sexual violence by FARDC soldiers retreating from the M23 attack on, and occupation of, Goma. Moreover, at least 59 cases of sexual violence perpetrated by M23 in Goma and the surrounding area were documented during the same period.

42. Mayi-Mayi Simba was also among the main perpetrators. In 2013 alone, the United Nations documented 59 cases of rape in Orientale Province, including the rape of 19 girls during an attack on 6 January 2013 in Mambasa territory and the rape of 25 girls on 5 February during an attack on the village of Bafwambaya (Haut-Uélé territory).

43. Boys were also among the victims, with 11 cases documented during the reporting period. Nine of those boys were raped by FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Cheka

elements, along with 55 girls, during the attacks on 13 villages on the Mpofi-Kibua axis (Walikale territory) between 30 July and 2 August 2010. Sexual violence against boys remains largely underreported as a result of social stigma and the inadequacy of services for male victims.

E. Abductions

44. The United Nations documented the abduction of 876 children (401 girls and 475 boys) during the period under review. LRA was responsible for 60 per cent of the total number. Children reported that they had been used primarily as porters and combatants. Of the girls, 63 declared that they had been victims of sexual violence. As LRA activities diminished considerably, the number of abductions by the group decreased substantially, from 206 in 2010 and 229 in 2011 to 68 in 2012 and 18 in 2013. On the other hand, abductions attributed to ADF increased, from 2 cases in 2010 to 28 in 2013, as its activities intensified.

45. Sporadic cases of cross-border abductions by LRA from South Sudan and the Central African Republic continued to be documented. For example, a 14-year-old Sudanese boy was reportedly abducted by LRA on 12 March 2011 in Yambio, South Sudan. During his captivity, he crossed the borders of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. He also witnessed the killing of a Congolese girl. He managed to escape on 4 August 2011, during an operation by the Uganda People's Defence Forces in Dungu territory.

F. Attacks on schools and hospitals

46. During the reporting period, hundreds of schools were permanently or temporarily closed owing to the conflict, in particular in North and South Kivu, Katanga and Orientale Province, affecting the right to education of tens of thousands of children.

47. At least 180 schools and 83 health centres were directly affected by the armed conflict. A total of 47 schools were destroyed, 82 were looted and 51 were used for military purposes. Thirty-two cases affecting schools were attributed to FARDC, including cases of looting in 12 primary schools in South Kivu between 1 May and 8 October 2011. Of the health centres, 53 were looted, 18 destroyed and the remainder used for military purposes.

48. Among the main perpetrators, FDLR was responsible for carrying out attacks against 31 schools and 9 hospitals in North Kivu and South Kivu. FRPI was also responsible for attacking 14 schools and seven hospitals in Irumu territory. Nine cases were attributed to M23. The Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported the shelling of a school in Goma by M23 during an attack between 22 and 30 August 2013 (see S/2014/42). ADF was also responsible for systematic attacks against schools and hospitals in Beni territory. Between November 2012 and May 2013, ADF elements attacked and looted at least five health centres and a school. In July 2013 alone, ADF elements were responsible for ransacking 13 hospitals and 20 schools, destroying furniture and looting medical equipment and supplies.

G. Denial of humanitarian access

49. Humanitarian access continued to be seriously hampered in many areas in which armed groups were active and military operations were continuing throughout the reporting period. Among the most serious incidents of 2011 was the killing of five humanitarian workers during an attack allegedly carried out by Mayi-Mayi elements in South Kivu. In 2012, the country task force on monitoring and reporting documented 256 incidents of denial of humanitarian access or security incidents against humanitarian workers. North Kivu was the most affected, with a total of 123 cases, mainly in and around Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru territories, as a result of clashes between M23 and the national armed forces. Although in most cases the perpetrators could not be identified, 38 cases were attributed to armed groups such as FDLR and Mayi-Mayi groups, including Raia Mutomboki. Another 26 incidents were attributed to the Congolese security forces. In total, 216 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers were documented in 2013, of which 109 constituted denial of humanitarian access. The Kivus were most affected, with 59 incidents in South Kivu and 40 in North Kivu. Five cases of denial of humanitarian access were documented in both Orientale Province and Katanga.

IV. Follow-up to the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and to the previous recommendations of the Secretary-General

50. Since the adoption of the conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on 1 March 2011 (S/AC.51/2011/1), progress has been achieved in a number of areas.

51. As called for in the conclusions, the action plan to end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by armed and security forces was signed in October 2012. Progress has also been achieved in the provision of access to military sites for verification purposes by child protection actors and in the area of the release and reintegration of children associated with FARDC.

52. In addition, with regard to the recommendation of the Working Group that a regional strategy be developed to address the impact of LRA activities on children, the United Nations and the Ugandan armed forces developed a standard operating procedure in 2011, on the basis of which the latter agreed to hand over without delay to protection actors children associated with armed groups who had been rescued. Furthermore, pursuant to the request of the Security Council in the presidential statement of 14 November 2011 (S/PRST/2011/21), a cross-border regional strategy for the identification, care and repatriation of children associated with LRA in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo was developed as part of the broader regional strategy to address the threat and impact of LRA activities (S/2012/481). As regards the recommendation of the Working Group that the fight against impunity be strengthened, while some progress has been achieved, as noted in the section below, no significant steps have been taken to withdraw systematically all perpetrators of child rights violations from FARDC.

A. Action plan

53. As a result of a collaborative effort between the United Nations, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, a draft action plan was developed in 2011 and 2012. It was subsequently reviewed by all the ministries concerned, including the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Gender and Social Affairs and the Minister of Education.

54. On 4 October 2012, the Government and the United Nations signed the action plan to stop and prevent underage recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups, sexual violence and other grave violations of children's rights by the armed forces and the security services. In so doing, they committed themselves to working in the following four areas through a joint technical working group established at the national level: identification and release of children associated with armed forces and groups; response to children victims of grave violations; prevention of grave violations against children; and combating the impunity of perpetrators.

55. Throughout 2013, the Government remained committed to the implementation of the action plan. On 3 May 2013, the Ministry of Defence issued a directive to prohibit the killing, maiming and recruitment of and sexual violence against children, in addition to the occupation of schools and hospitals, stating that perpetrators would face disciplinary measures or military prosecution. The National Intelligence Agency issued a second directive in which it stated that all children in detention on charges of association with armed groups should be handed over immediately to United Nations child protection actors.

56. On 18 July 2013, the Ministry of Defence requested the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate the creation of provincial joint technical working groups, which led to the appointment in the eastern provinces of high-level focal points. Significant progress was also made in the provision of access for United Nations personnel to FARDC facilities and detention centres for the purpose of identifying and separating minors. At the end of 2013, the authorities submitted a progress report in line with the action plan.

B. Advocacy

57. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations systematically undertook advocacy initiatives to end and prevent grave violations against children. That was done through multidisciplinary efforts at the policy and political levels, in the context of frequent interactions with government representatives, as well as in the area of release and reintegration, in the context of dialogue with armed groups and by supporting accountability for serious crimes.

58. In the context of the continuing dialogue between FARDC and the United Nations, 339 children were released during the national recruitment campaign. In 2012 alone, 269 children were separated following an age verification process involving 12,862 FARDC elements. In 2013, while 91 children were recruited and trained, they were separated before being deployed.

59. The conduct of joint military operations in the context of the implementation of the MONUSCO human rights due diligence policy created additional opportunities to advocate the protection of children with the FARDC military authorities. Child

protection advisers played an integral role in the protection of civilian mechanisms, including by sharing information on trends in grave violations against children and conducting physical screening of troops earmarked for joint operations.

60. In May 2011, a group of friends of children in armed conflict was established in Kinshasa, consisting of representatives of 18 embassies, delegations and other international partners, such as the World Bank and the European Union Advisory and Assistance Mission for Security Reform. The group meets at least four times a year with the aim of promoting information exchange between the United Nations country task force and the diplomatic community, streamlining advocacy efforts to end grave violations against children and identifying financial resources for the implementation of the action plan. The group has supported the action plan process through sustained advocacy and engagement with the Government.

61. My Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 18 to 23 November 2013. She travelled with senior representatives of UNICEF and MONUSCO to Kinshasa, Goma, Kiwanja and Beni to assess the situation of children affected by the conflict, strengthen dialogue with the Congolese authorities and review progress in the implementation of the action plan. In her meetings with young victims, national and local authorities, civil society, traditional chiefs and children she took note of the numerous remaining challenges ahead. She participated in a meeting of the joint technical working group in charge of the implementation of the action plan. During her visit, she addressed the authorities and advocated efforts to end impunity for perpetrators of grave violations against children, including in the context of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, integration of armed groups into the army and security sector reforms. In meetings, she called for the strengthening of sustainable reintegration for children separated from armed groups, including raising the awareness of communities to avoid the stigmatization of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, in particular girls.

62. On 6 March 2014, the Government endorsed and committed itself to the campaign "Children, Not Soldiers" launched by my Special Representative and UNICEF to end the recruitment and use of children by government forces in conflict by 2016.

C. Programmatic response

63. During the period under review, UNICEF partners provided services to 16,562 children between 9 and 17 years of age (13,679 boys and 2,883 girls) who were formerly associated with armed forces and groups, including 8,828 children in North Kivu, 3,365 in Orientale Province, 2,154 in South Kivu and 1,285 in Katanga. Those children had been separated or had escaped from armed forces and groups and received assistance such as medical and psychological support, family tracing and reunification and support for reintegration. Of the 16,562 children assisted, more than 11,000 were supported to return to school (approximately 49 per cent), start income-generating activities (26 per cent) or gain access to professional training (25 per cent). Reduced resources and the growing numbers of children in need of emergency care slowed down the assistance for reintegration. In addition, 93 foreign children were repatriated to their country of origin (9 to Burundi, 4 to the Central African Republic, 2 to Uganda, 72 to Rwanda and 6 to the Sudan).

64. Between 2010 and 2013, 17,189 children survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received multisectoral assistance (medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic and legal referral) through UNICEF, as the lead for the multisectoral pillar of the national strategy to combat sexual and gender-based violence. Those figures reflect only the activities carried out by UNICEF partners and not the overall assistance provided to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the eastern part of the country. Sexual violence against children continues to be underreported, referrals to relevant services are delayed owing to restricted access and specific clinical approaches remain limited.

65. In 2012, a total of 20,602 boys and 18,330 girls were trained by the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre in mine awareness and 57,886 boys and 52,715 girls received training in 2013. Awareness-raising activities took place in Katanga, Kasai-Occidental Province, North Kivu, Orientale Province, Equateur and South Kivu.

D. Mainstreaming of child protection and training

66. During the reporting period, the United Nations undertook and supported numerous training sessions. Some 6,400 MONUSCO peacekeepers were trained in child protection in situations of armed conflict and in the role of military personnel and peacekeepers concerning the protection of children. Moreover, almost 3,000 troops comprising the MONUSCO force intervention brigade were trained before their deployment or military operations.

67. UNICEF trained 57 officers from a battalion of the African Union Regional Task Force/FARDC in child protection in the framework of a regional programme on the protection of children affected by LRA.

68. MONUSCO trained 14,080 elements of the national police and 6,180 members of FARDC on child rights and child protection issues. In 2011, in cooperation with MONUSCO, the country task force on monitoring and reporting developed a specific child protection module as part of a training programme on human rights and international humanitarian law, which was adopted by the Minister of Defence as part of the official FARDC training kit.

E. Addressing impunity

69. During the reporting period, impunity for violations committed against children remained of great concern. Notwithstanding progress in the overall numbers of prosecutions for human rights violations through legal reform — including the introduction of the prohibition and criminalization of the recruitment of children by Act No. 09/001 of 10 January 2009 on child protection, which stipulates terms of imprisonment for child recruiters ranging from 10 to 20 years, the adoption of the action plan in October 2012 and a number of arrests and convictions for grave violations — no perpetrators of the recruitment and use of children were convicted.

70. Following a report by MONUSCO on trends in violations against children on 23 October 2013, the Minister of Defence pledged to pursue senior Nyatura elements Ngwiti, Muchoma Bahani, Ussama Ndukuche and Marcel Habarugira

Rangira for the recruitment of children. An arrest warrant for the four men was issued on 11 November 2013. On 28 February 2014, Muchoma Bahani was arrested at a FARDC training centre in Kotakoli on charges of recruiting children. He was detained in Ndolo prison in Kinshasa and MONUSCO has been assisting the military prosecutor in preparing the case for trial.

71. Colonel Josué Biyoyo Karanga, a perpetrator of child recruitment while commander of the Mudundu 40 armed group, is currently serving a life sentence in Kinshasa. He was previously sentenced in 2006 by a military court in Bukavu to life imprisonment on charges that included underage recruitment, but escaped from prison and reintegrated into FARDC as a colonel. He defected again to M23, after which he was arrested and prosecuted a second time solely on the grounds of his defection.

72. Kakule Muhindo Muhima, alias Shetani, of Mayi-Mayi Shetani, was arrested on 23 December 2013 in Rutshuru territory. He was detained in Goma on charges of having recruited 60 children (51 boys and 9 girls) between June 2008 and April 2013.

73. The case against Lieutenant Colonel Bedi Mobuli Engwnagenla, alias "Colonel 106", has not progressed. He was allegedly responsible for the recruitment and use of children, in addition to rape, sexual slavery and other human rights violations committed in South Kivu between 2005 and 2006. Since his transfer from Kinshasa to Bukavu on 2 April 2013, the case has remained at the stage of pretrial investigation.

74. No progress has been recorded either on the case against Mahanganiko Kasai, alias "Manga", of the Patriotes resistants Mayi-Mayi group responsible for the recruitment of at least 29 children, including 5 girls who were subjected to sexual violence by elements under his command between 1 January 2012 and 30 March 2013 in North Kivu. Manga surrendered to MONUSCO in Rutshuru territory and was transferred to the military prosecutor on 27 May 2013, but was freed on 17 July 2013 because of lack of evidence.

75. An increase in the number of prosecutions for crimes of sexual violence was recorded during the reporting period. That increase was the result of the support provided by international partners and the United Nations, in particular to military justice, including in the context of the national strategy to combat sexual violence. Of the 905 incidents of rape and sexual violence against children documented during the reporting period, 254 alleged perpetrators were arrested and prosecuted, of whom 105 were found guilty and sentenced to terms of imprisonment of up to 20 years. Most perpetrators were FARDC elements. With regard to rapes and other human rights violations perpetrated by FARDC elements in and around Minova in November and December 2012, 39 alleged perpetrators (including 5 high-ranking officers) were arrested and charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, including rape, murder and looting.[6]

76. MONUSCO monitored the trials of the alleged perpetrators of attacks and mass rapes, including of 55 girls and 9 boys, committed by a coalition of armed groups along the Mpofi-Kibua axis in Walikale territory between 30 July and

[6] The military operational court of North Kivu concluded the "Minova" trial against 39 FARDC officers on 5 May 2014. Only 2 out of 26 total convictions were on rape charges, including 1 for rape of an 8-year-old girl. Thirteen officers were acquitted.

2 August 2010. Only two alleged perpetrators were arrested. One of them died and the other escaped, resulting in deferment of the procedures.

77. On 9 July 2011, the Government promulgated a law on the criminalization of torture. That law reinforces Act No. 09/001 on child protection by also condemning torture against children. MONUSCO recorded at least 12 convictions against security officials for practising and/or encouraging torture since the promulgation of the law. In January 2012, two FARDC soldiers were convicted by the Isiro military garrison tribunal in Niangara, Orientale Province, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment of seven and five years, respectively, for torture of two minors (8 and 9 years of age).

78. More recently, on 11 February 2014, the Government passed an amnesty law for acts of insurrection, war and political offences, covering crimes committed between 18 February 2006 and 20 December 2013, but excluding grave crimes such as sexual violence and violations against children.

79. Significant progress was made during the reporting period at the international level. On 14 March 2012, the International Criminal Court found the commander of FPLC, Thomas Lubanga, guilty of war crimes for enlisting, conscripting and using children under 15 years of age in active hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 2002 and 2003.

80. The former deputy chief of staff and commander of operations of FPLC, Bosco Ntaganda, voluntarily surrendered to the International Criminal Court, which had previously issued an arrest warrant for him in 2006. A second arrest warrant was issued in 2012 and he was transferred to the Court on 22 March 2013. He is being tried on, among others, three counts of war crimes for enlisting, conscripting and using children under 15 years of age.

81. On 20 November 2012, the Security Council adopted resolution 2076 (2012), in which it expressed its intention to consider additional targeted sanctions against the leadership of M23 and those providing it with external support, including for the recruitment and use of children. In 2012, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo included four additional individuals on its consolidated assets freeze and travel ban list on the basis of their recruitment and use of children. An additional 11 individuals were also reclassified by the Committee as responsible for the recruitment and use of children.

F. Observations and recommendations

82. I urge all armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to lay down their arms immediately, stop the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations of children's rights and to release immediately all children within their ranks. I call upon them to enter into dialogue with the United Nations to prepare and implement action plans in line with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

83. I welcome the progress made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations in the implementation of the action plan to halt and prevent the recruitment and use of children, sexual violence and other grave violations by the national armed forces and security forces and the engagement of the Government in the campaign "Children, Not Soldiers" to end the recruitment

and use of children by government forces by 2016. I call upon the Government to ensure that children are not detained for association with armed groups in line with national policies and legislation.

84. I call upon the Government to implement fully and effectively the action plan at the provincial level and to meet its commitments to ending the recruitment and use of children, sexual violence and other grave violations against children.

85. The efforts made by the Government to ensure that children were not recruited by FARDC during recent recruitment drives are commendable. I strongly encourage the military authorities to further improve age verification and oversight procedures to prevent the recruitment of children into FARDC.

86. I call upon the parties to remain committed to their obligations under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and to facilitate the reunification of unaccompanied children with their respective families.

87. The Government should ensure that the implementation of the new national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan gives due consideration to the specific needs and rights of children and, accordingly, is carried out in the best interest of the child. I encourage the Government to focus specifically on sustainable reintegration opportunities for children. The Government should also ensure that girls formerly associated with the armed forces and armed groups are afforded equal reintegration opportunities.

88. I remain deeply concerned at the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of grave violations against children. I encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to redouble its efforts to combat impunity, including through the systematic, thorough and independent investigation and prosecution of all alleged perpetrators. I also urge the Government to take all measures necessary to ensure that the amnesty law adopted on 11 February 2014 is implemented, excluding perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. I encourage the international partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to maintain continuing programmes for strengthening the criminal justice system in the country.

89. I urge the Government to withdraw all perpetrators of violations of children's rights from FARDC, irrespective of their rank, and to hold them accountable for crimes committed against children.

90. I remain concerned at the numerous incidents of attacks against schools and hospitals, and urge the Government to meet, without further delay, its commitment to preventing and stopping such attacks and the military use of such facilities. FARDC, with the support of MONUSCO, should develop standard operating procedures to ensure that children are protected in the course of military operations and when they come into their custody, in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law. Those procedures should include the protection of schools and hospitals.

91. Lastly, I would urge the Security Council to continue to take into account the situation of children affected by armed conflict in its consideration of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

United Nations S/2014/454

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2014

Original: English

Identical letters dated 30 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

For the past 18 days, the people of Israel have poured out their hearts praying for the safe release of three teenagers kidnapped by Hamas. Earlier today, we were devastated to learn that the search for the boys had ended in tragedy. Our nation's heart is broken over the loss of our sons, Eyal Yifrah, Gilad Shaar and Naftali Fraenkel.

In the past few weeks, Israel has come under attack and felt the bitter devastation that comes with Hamas in a Palestinian Government. Since the formation of the unity Government on 2 June 2014, over 70 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israel. In the past 24 hours alone, 16 rockets were launched into southern Israel, one of which fell on a factory in Sderot. If the attack had occurred just a few hours later, countless Israelis could have been killed or injured.

The people of Israel cannot — and will not — tolerate these acts of terrorism. Israel's leaders have been very clear: we are prepared to take all measures necessary to protect our citizens from Hamas terror. Those who target Israelis with terrorism today will pay a very heavy price tomorrow. The Israeli Government has a right and a duty to protect its citizens.

The international community can no longer remain silent as the citizens of Israel are mercilessly murdered and terrorized. The serious danger of an even greater escalation hangs over our very volatile region. I call upon the Security Council to condemn the murder of the three Israeli teenagers by Hamas, condemn the relentless terror attacks on Israelis and condemn the Palestinian unity Government.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-56527 (E) 010714

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United Nations A/ES-10/633–S/2014/455

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 30 June 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel is escalating its military assaults and human rights violations against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied State of Palestine. In the past several days, air strikes and excessive force by the occupying Power have caused death and injury to more Palestinian civilians, including children, especially in the besieged Gaza Strip. It should be stated that the intensification of Israel's aggression against the Occupied State of Palestine threatens to further destabilize the situation on the ground and to fully ignite yet another round of deadly violence. This demands the attention of the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is duty-bound to act to maintain international peace and security.

For the past two weeks, on a nearly nightly basis, the Israeli occupying forces have carried out missile air strikes and artillery bombardment of civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, in grave violation of international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. In this regard, on 29 June 2014, on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, Israeli tanks bombarded the town of Al Qarara, located north-east of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip, killing Mohammed Zayed Obeid and wounding three others, including one who is in critical condition. This latest military attack came on the heels of an Israeli attack that took place on Friday, 27 June 2014, in which Israeli occupying forces carried out an extrajudicial execution and fired rockets at a civilian vehicle driving near Al Shatei camp, west of the city of Gaza. The air strike killed two Palestinians, Mohammed al-Faseeh, 23, and Osama al-Hassumi, 26, and wounded several others. Also on Friday, Israeli tank fire injured five Palestinians, including two children, two women and two men in their 20s in the town of Khuzaa', east of Khan Yunis. In addition to the killing and injury of Palestinians, the above military attacks by occupying forces caused extensive damage to Palestinian

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properties throughout the Gaza Strip, with civilian infrastructure bearing the brunt of the attacks.

I must also draw your attention to the simultaneous escalation of Israeli military operations throughout the West Bank, signaling a deliberate Israeli attempt to intensify tensions and confrontations on all fronts. In this regard, measures of collective punishment, such as the violent raids into Palestinian towns and villages and mass arrests and detention of Palestinian civilians, many of them youth, have continued, further fuelling tensions and resentment among the Palestinian population against the oppressive policies of the occupying Power. The number of Palestinians who have now been detained by the occupying Power has risen to over 575, which includes 24 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Moreover, in addition to the above-mentioned measures of collective punishment, Israeli occupying forces have also continued to use excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian civilian population. The rising death toll includes the death of Sakhr Burhan Daraghmeh, 18, who was killed while tending his sheep near Al Maleh, in the northern Jordan Valley, on Saturday, 21 June. Also on that Saturday, an elderly Palestinian man died of heart attack when Israeli occupying forces raided his house in the village of Hares, north of Salfit in the West Bank. Israeli occupying forces refused to allow family members to evacuate him to the hospital, where he could have received life-saving medical treatment. Moreover, on Sunday, 22 June, Israeli occupying forces killed Mohammed Mahmoud al-Toraifi, 30, during an Israeli incursion into the West Bank city of Ramallah. On that same day, Ahmed Sa'eed Khaled, 27, was also killed during an Israeli incursion into Al Ain camp, east of Nablus, on his way to perform the Al Fajr (dawn) prayer. When Ahmed refused to return back to his home, Israeli occupying forces shot him several times from point-blank range.

The Palestinian leadership condemns in the strongest terms these Israeli military attacks and the measures of collective punishment by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population. We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for these crimes of aggression and brutality, including deliberate reprisals and collective punishment, against the Palestinian people and to bring to an immediate end this renewed cycle of violence. We also reiterate the demand for the immediate and full lifting of the inhumane, illegal and immoral blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which amounts to the collective punishment of 1.7 million people. This blockade, coupled with the constant death, destruction and trauma inflicted by the occupying Power, has gravely compounded their suffering and misery. The international community, particularly the Security Council, cannot continue to stand idly by while the law is breached and international peace and security are threatened. In this regard, serious, timely efforts are needed to uphold the legal obligation to protect the Palestinian people under occupation and to ensure respect of the law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.

This letter is in follow-up to our 499 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 June 2014 (A/ES-10/632-S/2014/429), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against

the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations S/2014/456

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Chile on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 30 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations stating that Mr. Fidel Coloma has been appointed alternate representative of Chile on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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United Nations S/2014/457

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of a delicate development in the security situation in Iraq relating to the Muthanna project (a former chemical weapons facility).

On the night of Wednesday, 11 June 2014, armed terrorist groups entered the Muthanna project site, which includes bunkers 13 and 41, where remnants of the former chemical weapons programme are kept. They detained the officers and soldiers of the protection force at the site and seized their weapons and equipment.

The project management spotted at dawn on Thursday, 12 June 2014, through the camera surveillance system, the looting of some of the project equipment and appliances, before the terrorists disabled the surveillance system.

In the light of the repercussions of this event, the Government of Iraq requests the States Members of the United Nations to understand the current inability of Iraq, owing to the deterioration of the security situation, to fulfil its obligations to destroy chemical weapons. The Government will resume its efforts with regard to its obligations as soon as the security situation has improved and control of the facility has been regained.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Ali **Alhakim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-56624 (E) 020714

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United Nations S/2014/458

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 26 June 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana) as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission of UNMOGIP. He will succeed Major General Young-Bum Choi (Republic of Korea), who completed his assignment on 16 June 2014. I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Major General Choi for his dedicated leadership of UNMOGIP.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-56540 (E) 010714

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United Nations S/2014/459

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2014 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 26 June 2014 (S/2014/458) concerning your intention to appoint Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana) as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

14-56541 (E) 010714

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United Nations S/2014/460

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your kind attention an address of Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, concerning the termination of the unilateral ceasefire regime, made public on 30 June late at night (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**

14-56623 (E) 020714

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Address of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko

Dear compatriots!

On Monday, June 30, at 22:00, the validity of unilateral ceasefire expired.

Within the plan on peaceful settlement of the situation in the Donbas, such step was initiated for the first time on June 20.

On June 27, Ukraine continued it for additional three days.

In the course of the last 10 days, we have demonstrated our commitment to the peaceful settlement of the externally instigated conflict to the Donbas, Ukraine and the whole world.

We have demonstrated a good will of the Ukrainian government to the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Hardworking and peaceful people, the majority of Donetsk and Luhansk region residents, felt our sympathy, love and respect. They saw sincere readiness of Kyiv to reckon with their specific opinion and interests. They understood that their security is our main priority.

International support to Ukraine has become even stronger. In the course of the ceasefire, I have signed the Association and DCFTA Agreement with the EU.

Still, a unique chance to implement the peace plan has not been used because of violent actions of insurgents. They publicly declared their unwillingness to support the peace plan in general and cease fire in particular. They defiantly violated the ceasefire regime more than 100 times.

Political leadership of separatists demonstrated unwillingness and inability to control the actions of their terrorist units and bands of marauders.

The cancellation of the Federation Council's mandate to use Russian forces in Ukraine had a positive yet symbolic meaning. We haven't seen tangible measures on de-escalation of the situation and enhancement of control over the border.

Despite all this, peace was and remains my goal. But the instruments of its achievement are different now.

In the evening of June 30, the NSDC meeting was held. After discussing the situation, I, as Supreme Commander-in-Chief, have made a decision not to continue the unilateral ceasefire regime.

Protection of territorial integrity of Ukraine, lives and safety of civilians requires not only defensive, but also offensive actions against terrorists.

The Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Service, the Security Service received proper orders.

In the implementation of tasks on the protection of territorial integrity, they are no more bound by the limits of the ceasefire regime.

We will attack and liberate our land. Termination of ceasefire is our response to terrorists, insurgents, marauders, everyone who tortures civilians, paralyzes the economy of the region, disrupts payments of salaries, pensions, scholarships, blasts the railroad, destroys the water pipes and deprives people of normal peaceful life.

The Armed Forces, the National Guard and other units will never use force against civilians. They will never attack residential areas.

Ukrainian soldiers will risk their lives in order to save lives of women, children and aged people, everyone who lives in the Donbas and doesn't take the illegal weapons.

This is the age-old chivalrous nature of the Ukrainian army.

We bear responsibility for every peaceful life that, God forbid, can be broken off in the course of the counterterrorist operation.

It requires substantial deliberation of every step in holding of the operation.

I address every resident of Donetsk and Luhansk regions with a request to understand my decision. I ask you to become allies in the return of safety to the Donbas.

Yes, you cannot counter bandits with physical force. But your power of will and spirit, your civil disobedience to the so-called " people's republics" , intolerance and contempt for those who embarked on the path of banditry, looting and terror will bring closer the day when the strong peace will return to your home.

As President, I guarantee amnesty for all who embarked on the path of armed resistance to the legal authorities but understood their mistake and want to correct it.

Our peace plan, as strategy for Ukraine and the Donbas, remains in force. Disarmament. Decentralization. Free use of Russian language. Restoration of destroyed housing at the cost of the state. Programme of creating new jobs jointly with the EU. We are even ready to return to the ceasefire at any time. When we will see that all the parties comply with basic items of the peace plan. When militants will release all the hostages. When there will be a red light for saboteurs and suppliers of weapons on the other side of the eastern border. When the OSCE will monitor the compliance with the regime on the border.

Dear compatriots!

As never before should we unite to defend Ukraine. It requires commitment and discipline not only on the frontline, but also in the rear.

Still, there has never been a war after which peace has not come.

The same will happen this time.

Glory to Ukraine!

United Nations S/2014/461

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 July 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) covers developments from 16 December 2013 to 20 June 2014 and brings up to date, since the issuance of my report dated 30 December 2013 (S/2013/781), the record of activities carried out by UNFICYP pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2135 (2014).

2. As at 20 June 2014, the strength of the military component stood at 858 for all ranks and the strength of the police component stood at 62 (see annex).

II. Good offices mission and other developments

3. On 11 February, after five months of intense discussions, the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Derviş Eroğlu, concluded a joint declaration marking the official relaunch of high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. On that occasion, I wrote to both leaders acknowledging the agreement on the joint declaration and the resumption of full-fledged negotiations. In April, I held bilateral meetings with both leaders and expressed encouragement over their continued commitment to the process.

4. Following the resumption of high-level negotiations, the sides regularly engaged in discussions, both at the leaders' and at the negotiators' level. The leaders held two meetings (on 31 March and 2 June), during which they took stock of the work conducted by their respective negotiators and reiterated their commitment to continuing to move the process forward. On 22 May, the leaders agreed to speed up the process of negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement and, to that end, to meet at least twice a month. During the meeting on 2 June, the leaders also discussed the revitalization of the technical committees, possible confidence-building measures and other substantive issues relating to different negotiating chapters.

5. On 27 February, the Greek Cypriot negotiator, Andreas Mavroyiannis, visited Ankara and the Turkish Cypriot negotiator, Kudret Ozersay, visited Athens, in the first exchange of its type in the Cyprus peace talks. The negotiators considered the

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visits an important step forward and the beginning of a useful dialogue. The negotiators also travelled to South Africa from 25 to 29 April, in a visit facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to gather lessons learned and experiences from the South African mediation process.

III. Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

6. UNFICYP is intended first and foremost to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to contribute to the maintenance of law and order and a return to normal conditions. Its mandate requires reconciling, as far as possible, security considerations and the maintenance of the military status quo with allowing Cypriots who live and work in the buffer zone to pursue civilian activities and enjoy full and productive lives. Such an approach, when successful, builds confidence between communities and contributes to the overall United Nations effort in support of the peace process.

A. Prevention of a recurrence of fighting and the maintenance of the military status quo

7. During the reporting period, UNFICYP continued to maintain the integrity and stability of the buffer zone. Notwithstanding the minor military violations committed by the opposing forces, which resulted in occasional altercations with UNFICYP, relations between the latter and the opposing forces remained good. Thanks to regular patrolling and the mission's observation, reporting and liaison infrastructure, UNFICYP managed to avert attempts by both opposing forces to effect low-level changes to the military status quo across the buffer zone. The non-recognition by the opposing forces of the aide-memoire of 1989 and incidents that challenge the authority of UNFICYP in the buffer zone continue to be problematic, however. On a number of occasions, the opposing forces continued to question the United Nations delineation of the ceasefire lines and, consequently, the extent of the buffer zone in certain areas.

8. In a new development, during the reporting period, the Turkish forces deployed 28 closed-circuit television cameras along the ceasefire line in central Nicosia, including some on previously unmanned observation posts. The assessment of UNFICYP is that this confers a clear military advantage to the Turkish forces in the areas concerned. UNFICYP protested against this military violation on several occasions, at both the military and political levels, but the cameras remain in place.

9. While no progress was made in the implementation of military-related confidence-building measures, neither of the opposing forces conducted any major military exercises during the reporting period. In old town Nicosia, where the ceasefire lines are in close proximity to each other, instances of ill-discipline at the lowest tactical level continued to provoke reactions from the other side. Furthermore, previously reported military positions established by both forces inside the buffer zone that violate the status quo remain in place. The Turkish forces frequently overmanned the liaison post at Strovilia in violation of the military status quo. The United Nations continues to hold the Government of Turkey responsible for the status quo in Varosha.

B. Demining activity

10. The two sides continued to withhold access for demining to the four known mined areas in the buffer zone, of which three are under the control of the National Guard and one is under that of the Turkish forces. On 3 April, the eve of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, my Special Representative and Head of UNFICYP, Lisa M. Buttenheim, wrote separately to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to inform them that, following an inter-mission agreement between UNFICYP and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a Cambodian mine clearance team from UNIFIL would deploy to help UNFICYP to clear two areas where mines might have been displaced into the buffer zone by flooding (see S/2013/781, para. 7). On 22 April, the team found an anti-tank mine on the Turkish forces' ceasefire line near Mammari, in sector 1 of the buffer zone, and safely detonated it the following day, in close cooperation with the opposing forces. The team completed its mine clearance tasks on 5 June, having cleared a total area of 7,032 m^2 within the buffer zone.

11. In her letter, she further noted that the Security Council had repeatedly called upon both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in the buffer zone, and had urged them to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone, as most recently reflected in its resolution 2135 (2014). In his reply dated 8 April, the Greek Cypriot leader recalled that, on 1 July 2013, Cyprus had concluded its national plan for the destruction of all anti-personnel mines and minefields under its control, pursuant to its obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. In his reply dated 14 April, the Turkish Cypriot leader indicated that he had already proposed to the Greek Cypriot side that, as a "confidence-building measure", the United Nations should clear the remaining mines within the buffer zone, followed by demining operations to be conducted simultaneously in the north by the Turkish Cypriot side and in the south by the Greek Cypriot side.

C. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

12. In line with its mandate to contribute to a return to normal conditions, UNFICYP continued to urge the authorities, local community leaders and civilians to provide relevant information on civilian projects in the buffer zone in a timely manner and in accordance with the established procedures. UNFICYP issued more than 900 permits for farming and other civilian activities in the buffer zone, and approved 28 of 37 civilian construction projects in the buffer zone. In support of such civilian activities, UNFICYP continued to facilitate the maintenance of public utility infrastructure and the provision, at times contested by the sides, of basic services such as water, sewage and electricity to both communities.

13. UNFICYP police continued to assist and facilitate investigations conducted by the respective police services into criminal matters occurring within the buffer zone. This was particularly the case in the mixed village of Pyla, where UNFICYP is responsible for the conduct of law enforcement by the two sides and where an increase in criminal activity over the reporting period in the village was noted. The university that opened in Pyla in October 2012 remained unauthorized during the reporting period. The Greek Cypriot leader attended the university's inauguration

ceremony on 16 June and delivered an address. Improved relations between UNFICYP and local representatives in the village and the slow growth in student numbers have to date mitigated the university's impact on community relations and law and order in the village.

14. At times, UNFICYP personnel faced challenges to their authority in the buffer zone from individuals carrying out unauthorized activities, such as armed hunters, and on some occasions they encountered aggressive behaviour, including both verbal and physical aggression. UNFICYP urged the relevant authorities on both sides to take prompt action in such instances, including through judicial process when necessary. Restrictions on local United Nations staff members seeking to undertake their duties in the north remained in place.

15. Beyond the buffer zone, UNFICYP continued to address the concerns of 343 Greek Cypriots and 118 Maronites residing in the north, including through the weekly delivery of humanitarian assistance and support to the Greek Cypriot schools in the Karpas peninsula. UNFICYP also facilitated the post-mortem transfers of three Greek Cypriots for burial in the north. The two requests of Greek Cypriot individuals to return to the Karpas region (see S/2013/781, para. 12) continue to await a reply from the Turkish Cypriot authorities, and requests for Greek-speaking doctors to treat elderly Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north are yet to be addressed. For Turkish Cypriots residing in the south who had requested assistance, UNFICYP conducted home visits and liaised with the local authorities to ensure access to health and welfare support. As noted in previous reports, there were again no new developments regarding the establishment of a Turkish language school in Limassol. UNFICYP also assisted in addressing the legal and humanitarian issues surrounding the imprisonment and temporary detention of 10 Turkish Cypriots in the south by means of regular visits to the detention facilities where they were held. To enhance confidence in judicial proceedings, UNFICYP attended seven court hearings involving Turkish Cypriots in the south and one court hearing involving a Greek Cypriot in the north.

16. During the reporting period, UNFICYP and UNDP continued to engage with various stakeholders to promote enhanced cooperation in old town Nicosia, where the buffer zone is at its most narrow. With support from UNFICYP, experts from the Nicosia Master Plan — a bicommunal mechanism to address urban issues in the old town — were instrumental in facilitating the stabilization of 14 buildings that had been identified as posing a risk to UNFICYP patrols along the Green Line. Under a UNDP-implemented project, on 8 April, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot mayors of Nicosia inaugurated the bicommunal Nicosia wastewater treatment plant, which services 270,000 people from both communities. On six occasions during the reporting period, UNFICYP brought together environmental, social and health experts from the two municipalities to discuss issues of common concern.

17. With a view to fostering bicommunal cooperation and reconciliation, UNFICYP supported 98 civil society events in cooperation with international and local partners, in which more than 9,500 individuals from both communities engaged in sporting, cultural, educational and other activities. One such event was the joint celebration of International Labour Day by Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot trade union representatives, which culminated in a concert in the downtown Nicosia buffer zone that was attended by 5,000 people. UNFICYP also supported regular meetings of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political party

representatives under the auspices of the Embassy of Slovakia. Separately, in the first half of 2014, UNDP facilitated an interdisciplinary bicommunal dialogue on the peace process that brought together senior representatives of political parties, trade unions, professional associations and non-governmental organizations.

18. With UNFICYP support, interreligious dialogue continued to make good progress during the reporting period. On 26 February, the five religious leaders of Cyprus (the Archbishop of the Church of Cyprus, the Grand Mufti of Cyprus, the Maronite Archbishop, the Armenian Archbishop and the Patriarchal Latin Vicar) issued their first joint statement, in which they welcomed the resumption of the Cyprus talks. The reporting period also saw several instances of worship on both sides of the island in locations that were opened for the first time in many decades, including a Good Friday service held at St. George's Church in Famagusta, a name day celebration at the Armenian Church of Virgin Mary in north Nicosia on 11 May and an inauguration ceremony at Tahtakale Mosque in south Nicosia on 3 June. Against this trend, a religious ceremony on 31 May at the Maronite St. Antonis Chapel was interrupted by the Turkish Cypriot authorities.

19. For its part, UNFICYP facilitated 48 religious services and commemorative events, involving more than 10,000 individuals, conducted in the north or held under escort in the buffer zone. A total of 22 religious events were held in the north, a sharp rise compared with the same period in 2013, when only 11 such events were held. Underpinning those developments, UNDP worked closely with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage on the protection of cultural sites on both sides of the island, with significant progress made in the restoration of Othello Tower in Famagusta and the Apostolos Andreas Monastery. The renovation of 12 other cultural heritage sites on both sides of the island is either near completion, under design or about to begin.

20. On 2 June, the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Greece came together in Nicosia and established the Nicosia Economic Forum. On that occasion, the Chambers issued a joint statement in support of the continuing negotiations and committed themselves to promoting the development of joint private sector initiatives.

21. The Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters, facilitated by UNFICYP police, continued to meet, and the Joint Communications Room continued to provide a forum for enhanced cooperation between the respective police forces. Over and above the exchange of information on criminal matters that have intercommunal elements, the Joint Communications Room focused on humanitarian cases of recently missing persons and family disputes involving children.

22. UNFICYP police continued to provide escorts for convoys with Turkish Cypriot civilians and humanitarian supplies in accordance with the leaders' agreement of October 2010 that was reached upon the opening of the Limnitis/Yeşilırmak crossing. From December 2013 to May 2014, more than 500,000 official crossings through the buffer zone were recorded, down from some 700,000 during the previous reporting period. No agreement was reached on the opening of further crossing points.

IV. Committee on Missing Persons

23. During the reporting period, the Committee on Missing Persons continued with the exhumation, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. As at 15 June, the Committee's bicommunal teams of archaeologists had exhumed the remains of 1,090 individuals on both sides of the island. To date, the remains of 520 individuals have been returned to their families, including 46 during the reporting period. The total number of missing persons identified in 2014 currently stands at 43. Following the excavation of a military site in north Nicosia in February and March, on 9 May the Committee conveyed a request to the Turkish forces to excavate an additional site in a fenced military area in the north.

V. Financial and administrative aspects

24. As indicated in my previous report, the General Assembly, by its resolution 67/272, appropriated the amount of $55.4 million gross for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, inclusive of the voluntary contribution of one third of the net cost of the Force, equivalent to $18.7 million, from the Government of Cyprus, and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million from the Government of Greece. I invite other countries and organizations to make voluntary contributions, with a view to reducing the portion of the cost of UNFICYP covered by assessed contributions.

25. My proposed budget for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further six months, as recommended in paragraph 38 below, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the Assembly.

26. As at 17 June 2014, the total outstanding assessed contributions to the special account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 17 June 2014 amounted to $17.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $1,222.3 million.

27. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made only for the period up to December 2013, owing to the delay in the receipt of assessed contributions.

VI. Observations

28. As UNFICYP marked the fiftieth year of its continued presence in Cyprus since its establishment on 4 March 1964, the situation along the ceasefire lines remained calm and stable. At the same time, minor incidents and challenges, which passed largely unnoticed by the wider public, remained a regular occurrence. Frequent unauthorized civilian activity in the buffer zone, in part resulting from a perception of greater security, further complicated the overall security situation in the buffer zone. In that context, the Force's regular patrolling and liaison with the opposing forces and the respective authorities continued to play a critical role in preventing the escalation of tensions.

29. Given the resumption of negotiations towards reunifying the island, I call upon all parties to take specific steps on a range of measures as a sign of their commitment to the peace process. One such step could be for both opposing forces to engage actively with UNFICYP on military confidence-building measures. This could include formal acceptance by both sides of the aide-memoire of 1989, bringing an end to the contestation of the United Nations delineation of the ceasefire lines. Within such a framework, both sides could also deal with the recent change to the status quo arising from the placement of closed-circuit television cameras in Nicosia, which has increased tensions unnecessarily and is regrettable.

30. Another step could be for both sides to facilitate, without delay, access to all remaining mined areas in and outside the buffer zone, in line with Security Council resolution 2135 (2014). I thank Cambodia for agreeing to the temporary redeployment of its mine clearance team from UNIFIL to UNFICYP, which allowed for the clearance of two suspected mined areas in the buffer zone, making Cyprus a safer place. I also welcome the Turkish Cypriot proposal to resume demining operations across the island, and call upon the sides to reach an agreement on the modalities as soon as possible. The United Nations stands ready to further assist the parties in their aspiration to achieve a mine-free Cyprus.

31. UNFICYP continued to promote civilian use of the buffer zone provided that it did not negatively affect security and stability. Such activities, however, will promote trust between the communities only if they are undertaken in accordance with UNFICYP procedures. I thus once again call upon the respective authorities to act decisively towards all who engage in unauthorized activities, thus showing respect for the Force's authority in the buffer zone and support for its ability to implement its mandate.

32. The security challenges in old town Nicosia, a highly militarized area within the Venetian walls where the buffer zone is at its most narrow, need to be tackled. I reiterate my call upon both sides, including the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot mayors and municipalities of Nicosia, in addition to the Nicosia Master Plan, in cooperation with UNFICYP and UNDP, to adopt a holistic approach to the urban infrastructure of the old town through joint projects that could attract investment and thereby transform the wider area. Such an approach would also contribute to a return to normal conditions in a manner that enhances security along the Green Line and promotes public confidence in the negotiations.

33. Civil society has a critical role to play in contributing to peace in Cyprus. I commend the religious leaders for their continuing dialogue, which has delivered tangible results for Cypriots, including the opening of some locations of worship for the first time in decades. I also commend business leaders from Cyprus, Greece and Turkey, who have joined together for the first time under the Nicosia Economic Forum. I encourage their efforts to promote private sector initiatives that could have a positive effect on the continued regrettable low number of people crossing the buffer zone. I encourage the respective football federations to put into practice their earlier agreement on greater cooperation.

34. The successes of civil society and the continued development of economic, social, cultural, sporting or similar ties and contacts can provide critical support to political leaders and help them to make the necessary compromises at the negotiating table. Such contacts promote trust between the communities and help to address the concerns of isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. I once again call upon

both community leaders to exert efforts to create a climate conducive to the widening and deepening of such contacts, and to remove obstacles to those contacts. Greater economic and social parity between the sides will make an eventual reunification easier and more likely. In the context of an internationally sanctioned peace process, efforts in the opposite direction can only be counterproductive.

35. With regard to natural resources around Cyprus, it is important to ensure that any new-found wealth will benefit both communities. I remain of the view that such developments constitute a strong incentive for all parties to find a durable solution to the Cyprus problem and should engender deeper cooperation for the benefit of all stakeholders in the region.

36. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the critical humanitarian work being done on behalf of the families of victims through the Committee on Missing Persons. While I welcome the results achieved by the Committee during the reporting period, I also note that, up to 50 years after their disappearance, half of all missing persons have yet to be located and 75 per cent have yet to be identified. It is critical that the work of the Committee suffer no further delays. The aforementioned statistics and the advancing age of the relatives of missing persons highlight the need to expedite the process, including through accelerated granting of access to military areas. I therefore reiterate the need for increased cooperation with the Committee.

37. Regrettably, restrictions continue on the movement of locally employed United Nations personnel. Freedom of movement for all United Nations personnel is a matter of principle for the Organization and an operational requirement for UNFICYP. I call upon the Turkish Cypriot authorities to respect that principle.

38. UNFICYP continues to play a crucial role on the island by exercising authority in the buffer zone and contributing to keeping the calm and resolving various issues that affect the everyday lives of individuals in both communities. However, its ability to play this role depends by and large on the commitment of the sides to refrain from challenging the authority and legitimacy of UNFICYP in the buffer zone. In calling upon both sides to continue to cooperate with UNFICYP in good faith, I recommend that the mandate of the mission be extended for a period of six months, until 31 January 2015.

39. UNFICYP continues to maintain close collaboration with my mission of good offices and other United Nations actors on the island. In line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution 2135 (2014), the mission remains engaged in contingency planning in relation to the settlement. The planning will continue to be guided by developments in the negotiations and views of the parties on the possible role of the United Nations in this respect.

40. At the same time, I will continually keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties, and report to the Security Council with recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the UNFICYP mandate, force levels and concept of operations as soon as warranted.

41. With regard to the peace process, the joint declaration of 11 February constitutes an important achievement. I welcome the joint declaration as a clear statement by both leaders of their shared principles and as an invaluable basis for renewed talks, and I am heartened by their stated determination to resume structured

negotiations in a results-oriented manner, under the auspices of the United Nations. As they take this renewed process forward, I strongly encourage both leaders to sustain the current momentum, to build on existing agreements and the gains achieved to date and to intensify efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement based on the joint declaration.

42. As I have reiterated on various occasions, the sides should refrain from negative rhetoric about the process and each other, preserve the confidentiality of the process and work to build support for a settlement deal. I welcome the innovative step taken by the sides to engage in cross-visits of the negotiators to Turkey and Greece. I hope that those efforts will be sustained in the months to come. I encourage the sides to explore further mutually acceptable confidence-building measures that could contribute to an environment conducive to a settlement.

43. In view of the fiftieth anniversary of UNFICYP, I once again express my gratitude to the 32 countries that have contributed since 1964 either troops or police or both to the mission, and I pay tribute to the 184 peacekeepers who lost their lives over that period in support of peace in Cyprus. The year 2014 also marks half a century of the efforts of my good offices and those of my predecessors. I trust that this anniversary will further the impetus towards the reunification of the island. It is incumbent upon all parties to work in a determined manner towards a comprehensive settlement, to which all Cypriots aspire and which would obviate the continuing need for a peacekeeping presence.

44. In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to my Special Representative, Head of UNIFCYP and, since April 2014, Acting Special Adviser, Lisa M. Buttenheim; to the Force Commander, Major General Chao Liu; and to the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and commitment with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council. I should also like to express my deepest thanks to my outgoing Special Adviser, Alexander Downer, for his efforts over the past six years to reach lasting peace in Cyprus.

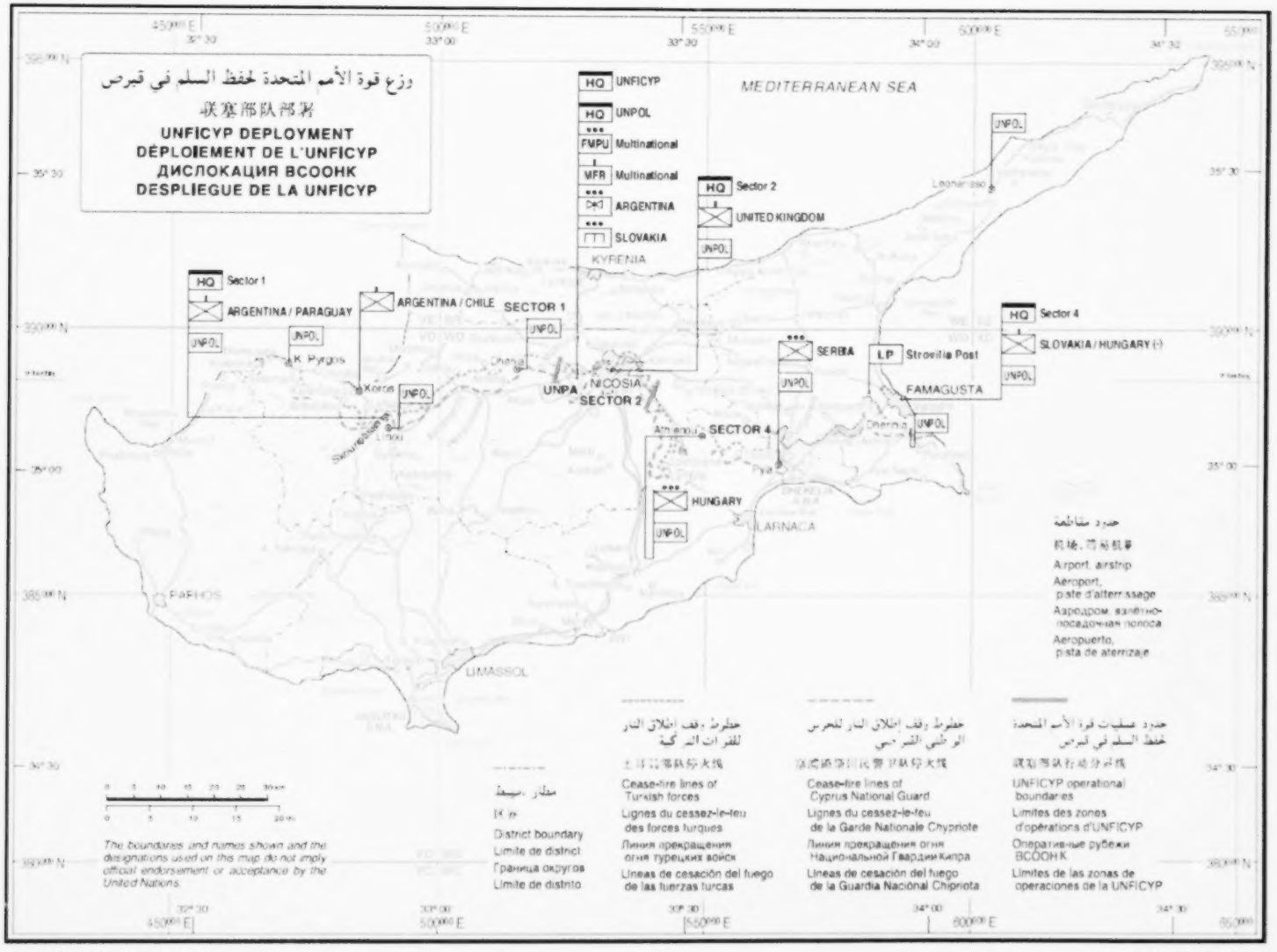
Annex

Countries providing military and police personnel to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (as at 20 June 2014)

Country	*Military personnel*
Argentina[a]	294
Austria	4
Canada	1
China	2
Hungary[b]	84
Slovakia[c]	200
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	273
Total	**858**

Country	*United Nations police*
Australia	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8
Croatia	1
India	7
Ireland	12
Italy	2
Lithuania	2
Montenegro	4
Serbia	2
Slovakia	1
Ukraine	8
Total	**62**

[a] The Argentinian contingent includes soldiers from Brazil (1), Chile (14) and Paraguay (14).
[b] The Hungarian contingent includes soldiers from Serbia (7).
[c] The Slovakian contingent includes soldiers from Croatia (2), Serbia (39) and Ukraine (2).



Map No. 2930 Rev. 8A UNITED NATIONS
June 2014

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Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2014/462

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons addressed to the Director General of that Organization, dated 17 June 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the attached letter to the Member States as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-56708 (E) 070714 080714

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

In reference to the letter addressed to you by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian regime, No. 301 dated 1 June 2014 and annexed to the correspondence circulated by the Organization's technical secretariat to member States as official documents under the designations D016496 and D016497, which includes claims that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is sending explosive and toxic materials to armed groups in Syria:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly denies the claims and allegations appearing in the above-mentioned letter from the representative of the Syrian regime. It stresses that those claims are untrue, in addition to having no relevance to the work and mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It is no secret to you that the Syrian regime exemplifies State terrorism and has persistently committed crimes against humanity and war crimes against its people. It has done so despite the outcry of the international community, which has indicated that the regime has used chemical weapons against its people. In particular, it carried out a chemical weapons attack on Ghutah, which the international community learned of from the regime itself, on 21 August 2013. It then delayed its response to the Security Council's demand to immediately allow international inspectors to enter Syrian territory to investigate the incident. Moreover, it has delayed in disposing of its chemical weapons arsenal in accordance with relevant resolutions. Instead of taking these actions, the Syrian regime has for a long time been sending you letters of this kind, whose content has nothing to do with the specific obligations incumbent upon it by virtue of the relevant decisions of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the subject of dismantling the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers these claims and allegations to be part of the Syrian regime's efforts to obstruct, delay and divert attention, and to justify its failure to date to fulfil its obligations to dismantle its chemical weapons programme.

Since joining the Organization, Saudi Arabia has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all the requirements set out therein. It stresses the importance of implementing the Convention in an effective and non-discriminatory manner, in the hope that this will effectively help to promote international peace and security. Saudi Arabia's commitment is an extension of its policies aimed at contributing effectively to efforts to prohibit all weapons of mass destruction and to prevent their proliferation, thereby making the Middle East a zone free of these lethal weapons. For this reason, in every statement it has made on the Syrian chemical weapons programme, Saudi Arabia has expressed its grave concern regarding the Syrian regime's failure thus far to dismantle its chemical weapons programme in accordance with the relevant Executive Council decisions. This raises real questions about the extent to which the Syrian regime is serious about fulfilling its pledges, with the target set for the end of June 2014 fast approaching. It also reinforces doubts as to whether the regime has something to hide. Saudi Arabia reiterates that what is being asked of the Syrian regime is to fulfil its obligations immediately and without stalling, and that it is asked for action, not more letters and sorry excuses, which will not succeed in sowing confusion and

diverting the attention of this esteemed Organization from carrying out its responsibilities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of your Organization and distributed to its member States.

(*Signed*) Abdullah bin Abdulaziz **Alshaghrood**
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

United Nations S/2014/463

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 June 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Chad on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 4 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations stating that Mr. Tchouli Gombo has been appointed alternate representative of Chad on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

14-56721 (E) 030714

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United Nations S/2014/464

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 2 July 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I am writing with reference to Security Council resolution 2159 (2014), by which the Council decided to extend until 9 July 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010).

I wish to inform you that, after consulting the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), I have appointed the following:

- Mr. Mowaffaq Al-Refai, conventional arms (Jordan)
- Mr. Jonathan Brewer, finance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Mr. Chunjie Li, export control (China)
- Mr. Thomas Mazet, customs (Germany)
- Ms. Jacqueline W. Shire, nuclear issues/technology (United States of America)
- Mr. Kazuto Suzuki, maritime transport (Japan)
- Ms. Elena G. Vodopolova, missile issues/technology (Russian Federation)
- Ms. Salomé Zourabichvili, arms control and non-proliferation policy (France)

I have designated Ms. Zourabichvili to serve as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts.

I should be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-56710 (E) 020714

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United Nations S/2014/465

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 2 July 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou (Mauritania), whom I appointed on 16 April 2014 to serve as armed groups expert on the Panel of Experts on Yemen and whom I also designated as the Coordinator of the Panel, withdrew from the Panel on 2 May 2014. Accordingly, in consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), I have appointed Mr. Mohammad Sbaiti (Lebanon) to serve as armed groups expert.

I have also designated Ms. Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah (Jordan), regional expert on the Panel of Experts, to serve as the Coordinator of the Panel.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-56711 (E) 020714

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